

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-12, 14 and 15 are now present in the application. Claims 1, 4, 5, 11, 12 and 15 have been amended. Claims 2, 6, 13 and 16-21 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 5, and 12 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 4, 11, 15 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been addressed. Accordingly, all of the claims are definite and clear. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are therefore respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kawami, U.S. Patent No. 5,882,761. Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by

Takahashi, U.S. Patent No. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US2002/0015818. Claims 4, 5 and 7-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawami. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections have been obviated and/or rendered moot. As the Examiner will note, independent claims 1, 5 and 12 have been amended to address the Examiner's rejections. Independent claims 1 and 12 recite a combination of elements including "the drying film being deposited on the second electrode and directly contacting the second electrode". Independent claim 5 recites a combination of elements including "depositing a drying film on the second electrode, the drying film directly contacting the second electrode". Applicants respectfully submit that the above combinations of elements as set forth in amended independent claims 1, 5 and 12 are not disclosed nor suggested by the references relied on by the Examiner.

Kawami discloses an organic electroluminescent element having a drying substance 8 deposited on the glass sealing case 7 (see FIG. 1). Takahashi discloses an organic electroluminescent element having a drying film 7/27 deposited on the sealing cap 3/23 and/or on the substrate 2/22 (see FIGs. 1 and 2), or having drying means 37 on the protecting layer 39 to cover the

protecting layers 39 (see Fig. 3). However, both Kawami and Takahashi fail to teach the drying film is deposited on the second electrode and directly contacts the second electrode as recited in claims 1, 5 and 12.

Since neither Kawami nor Takahashi individually or in combination teach or suggest the limitations of amended independent claims 1, 5 and 12 or their dependent claims, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims clearly define over the teachings of the combination of these references relied on by the Examiner.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

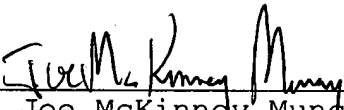
It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Joe McKinney Muncy, Registration No. 32,334 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Joe McKinney Muncy
Reg. No. 32,334

KM/GH/mmi/asc
4459-0154P

P. O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000